

The Geneva T.B. project for Bahrain very unfortunately was cancelled owing to changes of policy and financial aid in the World Health Organisation. This severely dislocated the programme to meet this problem. However, a modified scheme has been evolved making use of the ideas of Geneva and London and will be launched next year when in-patient accommodation will be considerably increased. The number of patients seen this year and treated were 275 men and 87 women. Many were foreigners and returned to their countries. Ninety were admitted and a few promising patients sent to Miraj Sanatorium. It is very satisfactory to report that those treated in Bahrain are showing greater improvement than in the past due to better drugs and surgery. A few have been in hospital for two years.

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The Bahrain Medical Society had a good year of meetings and the annual Persian Gulf conference at Kuwait was well attended from Bahrain and again proved most worth while. The co-operation of doctors and hospitals up and down the Persian Gulf is a noteworthy feature not only on account of valuable mutual aid, but of interchange of knowledge on problems common to all. This also applies to medical officers of the R.A.F. and Royal Navy.

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The hot weather was of average intensity with no heat exhaustion cases except from ships and these numbered 36 with 2 deaths. This has been causing considerable concern among all medical officers in the Gulf dealing with ships who report similarly, and as this department admits many to hospital it has now assumed some importance here. Certain shipping lines provide adequate facilities, and others do not, among which are certain British ships. The matter was taken up in a personal interview with the Chief Medical Officer, Port of London, where it was found that air conditioning might be considered but has not come into force yet. One air conditioned emergency room on each ship would greatly solve the problem and this is a matter needing prior attention.

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The health of the Islands for the year was again well maintained with no epidemics or serious outbreaks of disease.

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Miss W. E. Millson. Sister-in-Charge Nursing Home and Operating Theatre.

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It was with great regret that we accepted the resignation of Sister Millson who left to go to New Zealand in June 1953.

She had completed six and a half years of service in three contracts and been the first British Sister for this post.

By sheer hard work and selfless service she tackled these exacting dual duties with great determination and was not daunted by insufficient staff and ever increasing work.

She made a wonderful success of it, and her work will not be forgotten.

Sukal Khamis and Karzakkan. Venereal disease and trachoma clinics were carried on in the boys' schools, and regular school health services in the girls' schools. 743

The Reformed Church of America started a medical mission in Manama at the end of the last century. Its Mason Memorial Hospital has sections for men and women which, in 1951, had a combined capacity of 100 beds, as well as outpatient clinics. 747
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The Bahrain Petroleum Company maintains a hospital at Awali for the care of its employees. The division for the British and the American staff had a capacity of 40 beds in 1951, while that for the Arab and the Indian personnel had a capacity of 70 beds. The Company also operates dispensaries at its refinery and in the towns of Manama and Sitra. 743

Laboratories. A laboratory which undertakes examinations for all the government institutions is connected with the men's hospital in Manama. It has facilities for the performance of microscopic, bacteriologic, serologic and biochemical tests. Serologic, bacteriologic and clinical laboratories are attached to the hospital of the oil company in Awali. Clinical facilities are also available in the mission hospital. X-ray departments are incorporated in the government and the industrial hospitals. 742

Schools. No schools for the training of medical personnel exist in Bahrain, but plans are under consideration for the development of a course for the training of nurses in the government hospitals at Manama. Medical assistants are trained in all the general hospitals. 874
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PERSONNEL

Physicians. Twenty-four British, American and Indian doctors were associated with hospitals in Bahrain in 1952. Of this number, 11 were in the government hospitals, 2 in the mission hospital and 11 in the oil industry hospital. A few Indian doctors are engaged in private practice in the town of Manama. 759

Dentists. One dentist is engaged by the

Bahrain Petroleum Company. Two or three Indian dentists are reported to be practicing in Manama. 159

Nurses. In 1951, there were 24 trained nurses on the staffs of the different hospitals—10 in the government hospitals, 12 in the oil industry hospital and 2 in the mission hospital. In addition, 2 male nurses were working in the government institutions and 5 in the industrial. Ten nurse-midwives were connected with the government maternity hospitals and clinic.

Others. Bahraini and Indian medical assistants in various categories were employed in the hospitals and dispensaries.

DISEASES

In the absence of adequate reporting of morbidity and mortality on the islands, the information available regarding the prevalence of specific diseases is necessarily incomplete. Few scientific medical investigations have been undertaken in this area. The records of cases treated in the hospitals and the dispensaries provide data of general value in assessing the health status of the people, but they are limited in scope and applicable as a rule to a small percentage of the inhabitants. Moreover, the population is continually fluctuating, and many cases of illness treated in the local hospitals originated outside Bahrain. 164

DISEASES SPREAD OR CONTRACTED CHIEFLY THROUGH INTESTINAL OR URINARY TRACT

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers. Typhoid fever is endemic, but apparently it is not as prevalent as the insanitary conditions regarding food and water supplies would seem to warrant. Cases tend to be sporadic, although water-borne outbreaks attributed to contaminated well supplies sometimes occur. From 48 to 60 cases were reported annually in the 4 years 1948-51—probably a small part of the numbers actually present. Paratyphoid fevers are common. According to local medical authorities, most of the cases seen in the hospitals are para- 164 364